

iRACE VISION

Statistical Power



Thanks for taking the time to grab this PDF, and welcome to iRace Vision. My passion is Horse Racing Software Development. I'm known to



many as the Betting Software Guy. I literally spend hours looking at and generating statistics and trends, for Trainers, Jockeys, Horses and Race Courses as well as many other areas of Horse Racing. In this PDF system I have combined different

aspects of form analysis and statistics to find a winning system that produces a long term profit.

About The Method:

The Dark Horse Racing Method is a set and go system, by this, the selections can be made the morning of racing or even the night before. All bets placed and then left, just leaving you to check the results in the evening after racing has finished, further more it works on Flat, National Hunt and All Weather Racing.

The DHR Method focuses on some long priced horses, it does have a decent win strike rate, and makes a decent long term profit. However due to the nature of the system and the fact that it does tend to throw out some long priced horses, means that there can be longish losing runs, that said it also produces winners at prices up to 20/1! It doesn't take many long priced winners to turn things round very quickly, and very soon you'll be backing these horses with the Bookies money!

The DHR Method, uses a combination of statistics and basic form analysis, everything you need to

operate this system is available free of charge from the Racing Post Web at racingpost.com. The system is straight forward and doesn't require any in-depth knowledge of horse racing, nor does it require any complicated calculations, everything is explained is simple to follow steps.

There is also another edge that is used to improve the chances of backing the winner, because of the prices of the selections, on some occasions more than one horse in each race is be backed, and if you prefer you can even back the selections each-way. All of which will be explained.

The Statistics:

The statistics concentrate on the weight carried by horses in handicap races. Without going into to much detail, (as it's not needed to operate this



system), the weight assigned to a horse in a Handicap race is governed by the horse's Official Handicap Mark (OHM) or Official Rating

(OR), which is calculated by the British Horse Racing Authority's Handicappers.

The horse's OHM is changed depending on whether the horse is performing well or poorly, 'in form' horses have their OHM increased and those 'out of form' have their OHM reduced. The higher the OHM the more weight a horse will carry in a Handicap race. The idea behind handicapping a race is that all runners have the same chance of winning.

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The Statistics:

“Horses in the bottom half of the weights have a 55% chance of winning the race, compared to horses in the top half of the weights which have a 45% chance of winning”

It would be expected that the majority of winners would come from the top weights in the race as these are the better horses, however if the handicappers have done their job correctly then every horse in the race should have an equal chance of winning.



This is not the case, horses in the bottom half of the weights have a 55% chance of winning the race, compared to horses in the top half of the

weights which have a 45% chance of winning, this is enough of an edge to start with.

This would seem illogical, as it would be expected that the better horses would have a better win strike rate. However many horses in the top half of the weights are carrying more weight than they technically should, this is because the handicappers have a tendency to increase a horse's OHM quicker than they will reduce it.

Statistically we can eliminate 50% of the runners in a handicap race and be left with 55% of the winners, just from one simple statistic. However this still leaves half of the runners in the race to consider, this is where the form analysis comes in.

The Form Analysis:

The statistics have shown that carrying less weight or being lower in the weights of a race is an advantage.

Turning to the form analysis will help us select those horses that are not just in winning form but have a decent chance to win!

Horses in the bottom half of the weights fall into three categories; those that are 'out of form' and are therefore carrying lower weights, those that are competing in higher class races than previous races and are therefore assigned lower weights based on the quality of races they have been competing in, and those horses that are ahead of the handicapper either their OHM has only been increased slightly or has yet to be increased and therefore these horses are carrying less weight than they really should be.



It is this last group of horses that are the focus of The DHR Method; these are the Dark Horse, Horses of the race.

The form analysis is centred on two areas, the horse's three most recent race results and whether the horse is moving up, down or remaining in the same class of race as the previous race.



Winning Form:

It is said that a horse is only as good as its last three races, if a horse has not performed well its most recent races then chances are that it's not going to make some sudden improvement and suddenly start winning (although there are exceptions to this), so The Dark Horse (Horses) are those that have proven that they have been performing well and as such a good performance would be expected again, these are the 'form horses' in the race.

Change in Class:

The change in class between the current race and the horse's previous race helps to show the current class of the horse. Horse's going up in class especially if they are going up several classes, may well find that the quality of the opposition is just too much for them. Those horses competing in the same class of race as previously run are often stagnating especially when they are in the bottom half the weights. Those horses dropping in class are The Dark Horse Horses; these are the 'class horses'.

Horses dropping in class have a proven advantage; the quality of a horse's previous race is carried over into the current race. A good performance in a previously higher class race produces a better than expected performance when the horse drops down a class or two.

The Dark Horse Racing Method The path to backing long priced winners

Summary:

To Summarise The Dark Horse Racing Method, The Selections Are The 'Class/ Form Horses' In The Race That Are In The Bottom Half Of The Weights, These Are The Dark Horse Horses.

The Selection Process:

The selection process is straight forward and very quick to apply, as already stated the selections can be made on the morning of racing or the evening before racing.

Once the selections have been identified the bets can be placed, leaving you with nothing more to do but to come back later and check the results.

Below are the system steps in finding the selections, more details about this process are given in the section below 'Getting the Information Need'.

1: Select UK Horse Races ONLY:

2: Select ONLY Handicap Races:

3: Select ONLY Horses In The Bottom Half Of The Weights:

4: Select ONLY Horses That HAVE Finished 1st, 2nd or 3rd In ALL Their Last Three Races:

5: Select ONLY Horses That ARE In A LOWER Class Of Race Than Their Previous Race:



The Selection Process:

Horse that meet ALL 5 of these criteria are system selections, on some occasions there will be more than one selection in a race, when this happens all selections are backed, this doesn't happen that often but it does happen.

Getting the Information Needed:

All the information that is needed to operate The Dark Horse Racing Method is available on the Racing Post web site, as this resource is free and



available the day before racing, the Racing Post is the recommended source of the information required. It is possible to use other web sites or printed publications.

The 'Racing Cards & Runners' page on the Racing Post's web site is the starting point for The Dark Horse Racing Method.

The current day's races are listed at the following page <http://www.racingpost.com/horses2/cards/home.sd>, if you are preparing the selections the night before racing 'tomorrows' list of races can be found by 'clicking' on 'Tomorrow' just above 'Today's Horse Racing Cards' towards the top of the page.

1: Select UK Horse Races ONLY. – The url will present you with a list of the days races in chronological order grouped by course. *Any Irish races are also listed on this page, Irish races have '(IRE)' after the course name these are to be eliminated *

Theoretically the system should work on Irish racing but it has yet to be fully tested on Irish racing, a full analysis has only been completed on UK races.

2: Select ONLY Handicap Races. – Working down this list of races (omitting Irish races) select ONLY Handicap Races. Handicap Races have the word 'Handicap' in the Race Name, if the word 'Handicap' does not appear in the name of the race then move onto the next race.

Make a list of all the day's Handicap Races, and work systematically through this list. 'Clicking' on the name of the race will load a page with the race card. You may wish to load each 'Handicap Race' race card in a new page as you work down the list of races.

3: Select ONLY horses in the bottom half of the weights. – Fortunately the layout of the race card is such that the order of the Saddlecloth Numbers is in Weight Order.

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The Selection Process:

Horse that meet ALL 5 of these criteria are system selections, on some occasions there will be more than one selection in a race, when this happens all selections are backed, this doesn't happen that often but it does happen.

Getting the Information Needed:

3: Continued;

The Saddlecloth Number is the far left column on the Race Card, on the Racing Post web site it is labelled 'NO.' Do not confuse the Saddlecloth Number with the Draw Number (Flat Racing only – The Draw



Number is the horse's position in the starting stalls and is displayed after the Saddlecloth Number). In a 10 runner race select Numbers 6 to 10, the last 5 horses on the race card; These horses are in the bottom half of the weights.

In a 13 runner race select Numbers 8 – 13 (when there is an odd number of runners the 'middle' horse in the weights – in this case Number 7, is classed as being in the top half of the weights.

If the first horse in the bottom half of the weights has the same weight as the horse above it (the horse above it being in the top half of the weights) then this horse is eliminated and a non-selection as being in the top half of the weights.

The first runner in the bottom half of the weights must not be carrying the same weight as the horse

above it, the horse above being in the top half of the weights.

4: **SELECT ALL** horses that have come 1st, 2nd or 3rd in their last three races. – To the left of the horses name is a string of numbers, these are the finishing positions of the horse's most recent races. The most recent race being on the far right of this string of numbers.

The system looks at only the 3 rightmost numbers, the last 3 races run; ALL 3 of these numbers must be 1, 2 or 3. If the horse has been placed in any other position in its last 3 outings it is a non-selection.

5: **SELECT ONLY** horses that are in a LOWER class of race than their previous race. – If a horse has got this far in the selection process, it needs to be 'Dropping' In Class; the Class of the current race is lower than the previous race.

The Class of the current race is found in brackets directly after the race name on the race card.

'Clicking' on the Horses name will bring up a new window showing the details for the Horse including a list of all previous races. The race at the top of this list is the most recent race.

The Selection Process:

Horse that meet ALL 5 of these criteria are system selections, on some occasions there will be more than one selection in a race, when this happens all selections are backed, this doesn't happen that often but it does happen.

Getting the Information Needed:

5: Continued, The Class of this race is found in the third section in the 'Race Conditions' column, and starts with a 'C' the number directly after the 'C' is the Class of the race. If there is some confusion 'clicking' on the 'Date' of the race will open yet



another window displaying the full results for that race, here the Class of the race can be found in brackets directly after the race name.

Note that the lower 'Numbered' Class Races are in fact Higher Class Races. The order of the class of races is as follows with the HIGHEST Class races at the top.

Group 1 – Highest class of race

Group 2

Group 3

Listed

Class 1

Class 2

Class 3

Class 4

Class 5

Class 6

Class 7

Class 8 – Lowest Class of race

If the current race is a Class 5 race and the previous race was a Class 4 race this represents a drop in class.

Staking Plans:

The Dark Horse Racing Method shows a profit over the year to level stakes (in fact The DHR Method shows a year on year profit for the past ten years); this means that each selection is backed to the same amount. Thus any decent staking plan should work, however there are three options that have been analysed;

1: Betting to Level Stakes, where each selection is backed to the same amount over the year.

Using a 100 point bank, so if your bank is £200 then 1 point is $\text{£}200/100 = \text{£}2$

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The Selection Process:

Horse that meet ALL 5 of these criteria are system selections, on some occasions there will be more than one selection in a race, when this happens all selections are backed, this doesn't happen that often but it does happen.

Staking Plans:

Betting to Level Stakes and adjusting the bank at the end of every month.



Using a 100 point bank as above, but at the end of each month the value of 1 point is recalculated, so as above starting with a £200 bank, 1 point = £2 and each selection for the first

month is backed at £2. After the first month if the bank is now £250 then 1 point is $\text{£}250/100 = \text{£}2.50$ now each selection is backed at £2.50 for the second month and so on.

Using a compounding bank (profits and losses are added to the bank at the end of every day).

Compound staking means adjusting the bank at the end of each day, this is best done by backing each selection for the day to 1% of the bank at the start of the days racing.

All three of the options are available using either the Exchanges or the traditional Bookmakers.

Because many of the selections are above 4/1 there is the option to back these selections each-way, meaning that if they are placed then a profit can be

secured, however the profit will be smaller should the selection win.

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The Selection Process:

Horse that meet ALL 5 of these criteria are system selections, on some occasions there will be more than one selection in a race, when this happens all selections are backed, this doesn't happen that often but it does happen.

Staking Plans:

Using a compounding bank starting with a £100 betting bank. – Backing each selection to 1% win or ½% each way at 4/1 or above (total of 1% invested), all profits and losses are added to the betting bank at the end of each day.



It should be noted that although a compounding bank will show the greatest profit over the year, this is because the stakes increase as the bank increases.

This means that over the period of let's say one year the stake would increase by 5 times or more depending which staking plan is implemented; this all needs to be considered when deciding which option you prefer.

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The Selection Process:

Horse that meet ALL 5 of these criteria are system selections, on some occasions there will be more than one selection in a race, when this happens all selections are backed, this doesn't happen that often but it does happen.

FAQ's:

Q: Can I use The Dark Horse Racing Method on Irish Horse Racing?



A: Theoretically The Dark Horse Racing Method can be applied to Irish Horse Racing however the system has not been back tested, so there is no guarantee that it

will work. If you wish to apply it to Irish Horse Racing then 'paper trading' the system for a period of months would be sensible to ensure that it does make a profit before committing any money to backing the selections on the Irish Horse Racing.

Q: Can I apply The Dark Horse Racing Method to Non-Handicap Races?

A: NO, the Dark Horse Racing Method ONLY works for Handicap Races.

Q: What if several Horses in the race in question are carrying the same weight?

A: The only time that having more than one horses carrying the same weight needs to be examined is at

the 'cut off point' between those horses in the top half of the weights and the bottom half of the weights, (using the Saddlecloth numbers and the number of runners in the race to find the 'cut off point'). If the horse at the top of the bottom half of the weights is carrying the same weight as the bottom horse of the top half of the weights then it is classed as being in the top half of the weights and as such is eliminated from the selection process.

The 'cut off point' MUST have the bottom horse in the top half of the weights carrying a greater weight than the top horse in the bottom half of the weights. On rare occasions the top two (or more) horses in the bottom half of the weights may be carrying the same weight as the bottom horse in the top of the weights in this case these horses are eliminated as being in the top half of the weights.

Q: I notice that some Jockeys have a weight allowance; do I deduct the allowance from the weight carried?

A: NO, the system is only concerned with the assigned weight and not the actual weight carried, the assigned weight is that shown on the race card under the column 'WGT', and is determined by the OHM.

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The Selection Process:

Horse that meet ALL 5 of these criteria are system selections, on some occasions there will be more than one selection in a race, when this happens all selections are backed, this doesn't happen that often but it does happen.

FAQ's:

Q: One horse has an 'F' for the result of its last race, the three races before this it finished in the top three, is this horse a selection?



A: NO, this indicates that the horse was a faller and didn't finish the race. The system is very strict that the horse must have finished 1, 2 or 3 in all its last 3 races.

Q: One horse has only run in one other race, it did win this race so is it a selection?

A: YES, on the occasions where a horse has only had 1 or 2 other races then we only consider the races that it has run in, again it must have finished in the first 3 in these races.

Q: I have two selections in one race, one is a short priced favourite and there other is an outsider, what should I do?

A: This is personal preference, backing both horses is what the system recommends, however if the short priced favourite should win then an overall loss could be made on the race. The system shows that both horses have the same probability of winning the race.

An alternative would be to 'Dutch' the horses so that size of the bet is proportioned to the price and a profit is made regardless of which horse wins. As there relatively few circumstances where there is more than one selection in a race there is no discussion about 'Dutching' the selections when there are multiple selections, there are a number a free 'Dutching' calculators available on the internet, if this is the route you wish to take.

Q: Which is the best option when backing the selections, the High Street Bookmakers, On-line Bookmakers or the Exchanges?

A: This is personal preference, because many of the selections are at bigger prices the best return on investment is from using Betfair (or any other exchange), as longer priced horses achieve better prices on the exchanges; for straight win bets.

Other alternatives are to use those Bookmakers that offer 'best price guaranteed', here you take the early price being offered and should the selection end up with a Starting Price that is greater than the price taken when placing the bet then the pay-out is calculated using the Starting Price, basically the pay-out is calculated using which ever price is the greater, the early price or the Starting Price. This option is also very good if you wish to back the longer priced selections each-way.

The Selection Process:

Horse that meet ALL 5 of these criteria are system selections, on some occasions there will be more than one selection in a race, when this happens all selections are backed, this doesn't happen that often but it does happen.

FAQ's:

Q: One potential selection is racing in the same class race, but I notice that the value of the race is lower than the selections previous race, is this horse still a selection?



A: NO, by 'Class' the system refers to the Class of the race and NOT the value

of the race, review step 5 above.

Q: Can I use my own staking plan?

A: As stated there is no specified staking plan with this system as each selection has the same probability of winning, a simple staking plan such as one of those detailed in 'The Staking Plan' section is recommended, however after using the system for a couple of months you should have enough data to see what effect your own staking plan would have on the profits.

Q: What size betting bank should I use?

A: The size of the betting bank is personal choice, (remember never bet with money that you cannot afford to lose), it is recommended to start small until confidence and profits grow and adjusting the betting bank monthly. This way you will soon be betting with profits.

Enjoy the Dark Horse Racing Method,

All the best,

The Betting Software Guy.

:For more information on horse racing please visit the i Race Vision blog.

<http://www.iracevision.com>

